(d) The contents of the news item which appeared in The Hindustan Times of dated 5th April, 1997, have been noted.

(e) As per terms of reference, the Steering Committee is to prepare periodic reports as necessary on the progress of the implementation of the measures recommended by the Steering Committee.

Poverty Alleviation Schemes in the country

3125. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of poverty alleviation schemes being implemented in the whole of the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) the targets and achievements during the last year; and

(c) the effective measures Government propose to take for eradication of poverty in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The major poverty alleviation schemes being implemented in the country including the State of Bihar are (i) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (ii) The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) The Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS); (iv) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana; (v) The Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP); and (vi) The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP). While the first three Programmes are being implemented in the rural areas of the country the remaining three are urban poverty alleviation programmes. The details of the Programmes are given below:

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP): IRDP is a Centrally Sponsored scheme, being implemented in all the blocks of the country since 1980. Under this scheme Central funds are allocated to States on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country.

IRDP aims at providing self-employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans whose household annual income is below the poverty line of Rs. 11000 at 1991-92 prices. Within the target group there is an ensured coverage of certain categories-SC/ST 50%; women 40%; and physically handicapped 3%. The ceilling for subsidy is Rs. 6,000 for SC/ST families and the physically handicapped; for others Rs. 5,000 in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas and Rs. 4,000 in the non-Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) areas. Recently, a new category of trained literate youth has been introduced for which admissible subsidy is 50 per cent of the project cost of Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Further, for a group of five beneficiaries subsidy has been increased to 50 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 1.25 lakh whichever is less.

Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are two important sub-schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme.

(ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY): The JRY is a wage employment programme which has been in operation since 1989. The primary objective of the JRY is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons in the rural areas. The secondary objective is the creation of sustained employment by strengthening rural infrastructure and assets in favour of the rural poor for their direct and continuing benefits, and for improvement thereby in the overall quality of life for the people in the rural areas. Under the Yojana, funds are allocated among the States/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country. Further, the allocations to the districts within each State/UT are made on the basis of an index of backwardness which takes into account the proportion of rural SC/ST population in the district and inverse of agricultural production per agricultural worker, with equal weights.

Eighty per cent of the funds allocated to each district are distributed to village panchayats by giving sixty per cent weightage to SC/ST population and forty per cent to total pupulation. The remaining twenty per cent funds are retained at the district level for inter-block/ village works.

A small portion of funds under the JRY are allocated for undertaking Special and Innovative projects such as those aimed at prevention of migration of labour, enhancing women's employment, special programmes through voluntary organisations for drought-proofing and watershed development, etc.

(iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS): The Employment Assurance Scheme was launched on 2nd October, 1993 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas, in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to all the blocks of the country w.e.f. 1997-98. Under this scheme assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work has to be provided to those who are seeking it, during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective is the creation of rural infrastructure and community assets. Water and soil conservation works, minor irrigation works, rural roads, construction of primary school buildings and anganwadis are permissible works under the scheme. From 1995-96, 50 per cent of the funds have been earmarked for taking up works under watershed development. The Employment Assurance Scheme is a need based scheme and therefore no Statewise allocations are made. The States can demand funds in consonance with the demand for manual work during the lean agricultural season in the rural areas.

(iv) Nehru Rozgar Yojana (JRY): In response to the challenge posed by urban poverty the Nehru Rozgar Yojana was launched by Government in 1989. It is targetted towards persons living below the poverty line in urban areas (i.e. households with an annual households income of Rs. 11850 at 1991-92 prices). The Yojana has three components (a) The Scheme of Urban Macro Enterprises (SUME); (b) The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE); and (c) The Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU)

(a) *The Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME):* SUME assists the urban poor in upgrading their skills and setting up self employment enterprises. A subsidy of 25% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5000 for SCs/STs and women beneficiaries and Rs. 4000 for general beneficiaries is provided under this scheme. The remaining amount of the project cost is available from the banks as a loan upto a maximum of Rs. 15,000 for SCs/ STs and women beneficiaries and Rs. 12,000 for general beneficiaries. The scheme is applicable to all urban settlements.

(b) *The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE):* SUWE seeks to provide wage employment to the urban poor by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies. The scheme is applicable to all urban areas with a population below one lakh.

(c) *The Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU):* SHASU seeks to provide assistance for housing and shelter upgradation to economically weaker sections of the urban population as well as providing oppotunities for wage employment and upgradation of construction skills. The loan upto a ceiling of Rs. 9950 and a subsidy upto a ceiling of Rs. 1000 is provided under the scheme to the beneficiaries for housing/shelter upgradation. This scheme is applicable to urban settlement having a population below 20 lakhs.

(v) The Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP) aims at creating participatory community based structures through which the community participates in identifying normative felt needs and prioritieses them for implementation. The programmes aims at providing social services and physical amenities to the urban poor through the convergence of various on-going sectoral schemes of various Ministries/Departments. It aims to introduce a pro-poor orientation in the design of new programmes and evolves innovative partnership arrangements to fulfil the community's critical needs. The UBSP is being implemented in 283 towns on an all India basis covering approximately 48 lakh urban poor beneficiaries.

(vi) Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP): An integrated scheme for amelioration of poverty known as the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP) was announced on 15th August 1995. The foremost objective of the new programme is to attack several root causes of urban poverty in an integrated manner with an appropriate strategy involving various sectoral programmes of the Central/ State Governments as well as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by envisaging participatory implementation of the programme with the aim to eradicate urban poverty in the targetted areas by the end of the century. The specific objectives under the new programme are (i) effective achievement of social sector goals; (ii) community empowerment; (iii) convergence through sustainable support system; (iv) employment generation and skill upgradation; (v) improvement of hygiene and sanitation; and (vi) environmental improvement. The programme initially targets the urban poor living in Class-II towns (with a population of 50,000 to less than 1,00,000) which numbers 345 towns as per the 1991 Census.

(b) The Statewise targets and achievements (including for the State of Bihar) for the year 1996-97 for major rural poverty alleviation programmes and for the Urban Poverty Alleviation Programmes given at Annexure. (See Appendix 180 Annexure No. 65)

(c) The Government proposes to eradicate poverty within a specific time frame i.e. by the year 2005. In this effort the programmes for self employment and supplementary wage employment would continue and would be redesigned in order to make them more effective as instruments of poverty alleviation. They would also be integrated with the various sectoral programmes as well as area development programmes within the umbrella of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). In addition, priority will be given to identified seven basic minimum services with Additional Central Assistance earmarked for these services with the ultimate objective of their universal coverage in a time bound manner.

Categories of projects under the MPLAD Scheme

3126. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the categories of projects which a Member of Parliament can recommend for execution under the MPLAD Scheme, alongwith the names of Administrative Ministries/Departments in respect of those projects;

(b) whether a Member of Parliament can recommend projects for Railway works also under the scheme, if so, the requisite procedure to be followed and the appropriate authority to be contacted for taking up such projects; and

(c) whether any categories of projects are barred to be undertaken under the Scheme, if so, the details thereof, Ministry/Department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The works under MPLADS should be developmental in nature leading to creation of durable assets based on locally-felt needs. Illustrative list of the works which a Member of Parliament can recommend for the execution under the MAPLAD Scheme and a list of works which are not permissible under this scheme are given in the Appendix 1 & 2 respectively of the Revised Guidelines on MPLADS issued by the Government on 15.2.97. The Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation (Department of Programme Implementation) is the Administrative Ministry in respect of MPLAD Scheme.

Andhra Pradesh Government's opposition to Lakdawala Commission's methodology

3127. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AP Government has opposed the Lakdawala Commission's methodology to detect the number of amilies below the poverty line;